

Kennedys Entertain Staff and Families

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Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29—

The first White House party given by the President and Mrs. Kennedy was the gayest here in many a year.

It was their reception this evening to the appointees of the Administration, an official family party—and a real one, for many small boys and girls came to see their fathers sworn in.

"The Vice President and I want in the closest possible way to relax with all the members of the Administration," President Kennedy told the appointees, their wives and children massed in the East Room.

And everybody relaxed and had a wonderful time from 5 P. M. to almost 7, although it had been announced earlier

that it would last one hour only.

An unusual facet of the gathering was the serving of hard liquor at a downstairs reception. Those who wanted it had cocktails or whisky and soda or champagne. There were cola drinks for the children.

At first it was thought that this was a first serving of hard liquor at a White House reception since before the prohibition era. However, it was found that the Eisenhowers had served liquor at a diplomatic reception in 1953.

Everybody buzzed about, getting acquainted in the East Room, until the President and Mrs. Kennedy and the Chief Justice of the United States, Earl Warren, arrived for the swearing-in ceremony.

The President wore a gray business suit. Mrs. Kennedy wore a short black velvet sheath, over-embroidered in black flowers, sleeveless and one-piece. It had a high, straight-across neck. She wore earrings but no necklace. She wore no gloves. Her pumps were black faille.

Vice President Johnson was in a dark business suit. Mrs. Johnson wore a short dress of bright green brocade and a little fur piece around her shoulders. Her necklace, of many strands, was bright green.

Mrs. Robert Kennedy, wife of the Attorney General, pulled her husband up front behind the line of television cameras as the President made his little speech.

"I never want to miss a word he says," said Mrs. Robert Kennedy.

Then the President and his wife, the Vice President and his wife and the Chief Justice stood under the chandelier in the Blue Room and received the appointees and their families individually.

Kennedy Remarks

President Kennedy, in remarks before the swearing in ceremony, told the gathering of 300.

"It was our desire to see these names we've been reading about in the paper."

He said that "one of the less satisfactory things about a very satisfactory job" was the inability to see all of his official family.

"It is your responsibility to maintain the closest contact with each other and with the Vice President and me," he told the appointees.

He added that he hoped this would be "the first of many visits of you here."

The President introduced Chief Justice Earl Warren, who administered the oath to the sub-cabinet officials, as "the busiest man in Washington."

There were fires in the fireplaces of the Green, Blue and Red rooms. All these rooms were daintily decorated with small bouquets of white tulips, not great floral set pieces.

The bar table was at the south end of the State Dining Room. The long dining table, which runs from south to north, was filled with fit bits. It was decorated with three large bouquets of yellow tulips.

Two First Appointees

The two first appointees, both veterans in Washington, J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Allen Dulles, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, greeted each other. Asked if they had seen each other since Mr. Kennedy had announced they would stay on in the new Administration, Mr. Hoover answered,

"Often, we are partners in crime."

Earlier, in the East Room, Angier Biddle Duke, new chief of protocol, had reminded Mr. Hoover that his grandfather, Col. Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, had brought him to see him many years ago.

"Oh, yes," said Mr. Hoover. "Your grandfather was instructing our agents in jiu jitsu."

Dr. Janet G. Travell, White House physician, was there with her husband as Mr. and Mrs. John Powell. She said she thought the White House would be easier for President Kennedy than his running around the country in the last four years.

Her husband said that his company had been thinking about opening an office in Washington, anyhow, so now he would do it and live here.

As a new note in White House protocol one representative from the academy of each of the armed services was part of the military show. Just before the Kennedys went upstairs the President met each of them and then Mrs. Kennedy spoke with each.

They were Midshipman Ronald H. Reissmann of the Naval Academy, Matthew Barbour, president of the senior class at the Coast Guard Academy, Cadet Captain Richard Block of the Military Academy and Cadet Lieut. Col. Dean Jones of the Air Force Academy.